

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Varga et al.

Examiner: TBA

Serial No.: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

Filed: October 31, 2001

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IMPROVED VENDING MACHINE INVENTORY
MAINTENANCE**

Attorney's Docket No. 4763-013B

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

For this continuation application based on prior application 09/427,954, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent 6,181,981, please make the following amendments to the specification and claims. If any additional fees are required in association with this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account 50-1732.

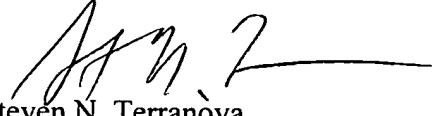
In the Specification

Please insert the following as the first sentence of the specification: "This is a continuation of Application 09/427,954, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,981. This application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,981." *filed on 10-27-1999 08/649,742 filed on 05-15-1996, now*

Respectfully submitted,

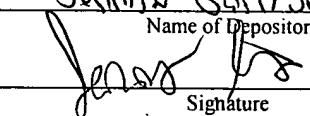
WITHROW & TERRANOVA, PLLC

By:


Steven N. Terranova
Registration No. 43,185

Telephone: (919) 654-4520

Date: October 31, 2001
Attorney Docket No.: 4763-013B

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON <u>10-31-01</u> (Date of Deposit)	
<u>Jennifer Garrison</u> _____  _____ <u>10-31-01</u> _____ Date of Signature	Name of Depositor _____ Signature _____ _____ Date of Signature